13(Amended). An electronic system comprising: a computer; and an apparatus coupled to the computer for presenting a virtual volume to the computer, the apparatus including:

a plurality of disks;

a plurality of back-end controllers coupled to the disks for organizing and presenting the disks as a plurality of redundant arrays of disks; and

a front-end controller coupled to the back-end controllers for striping the redundant arrays of disks and presenting the striped arrays as the virtual volume.

14(Amended). A method of storing data on a plurality of disks, the method comprising:

using a plurality of back-end controllers, organizing the disks into a plurality of redundant arrays of disks;

using at least one front-end controller, striping the redundant arrays of disks together to form a virtual volume; and

writing the data to the virtual volume.

18(Amended). A method of storing data on a plurality of disks, the method comprising:

using a plurality of back-end controllers, organizing the disks into a plurality of redundant arrays of disks;

using at least one front-end controller, forming mirror sets from the redundant arrays of disks;

using the at least one front-end controller, striping the mirror sets together to form a virtual volume; and

writing the data to the virtual volume.

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-20 remain in this application. Claims 1, 6, 13, 14 and 18 are amended to more distinctly describe the subject matter of applicant's invention. The abstract is amended to correct deficiencies noted in the Office Action and to more accurately reflect the nature of the invention as claimed. No new matter is added by these amendments and the amendments are not intended to affect the scope of the claims.